

# Biotoxin Bulletin

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## MBP Hosts Technology Transfer Participant



Elvie Sombrito, Yasmine Bottein, Fran Van Dolah

Elvie is head of the Chemistry Research Section of the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI). She is here on an IAEA funded scientific visit of two weeks in order to gain insight into different assays and analytical methods for algal toxins. Elvie has been involved in the receptor assay technology transfer project in the Philippines and the larger one in SE Asia that involves seven nations. Her lab hosted the 1999 RBA workshop at PNRI that Fran VanDolah conducted with the assistance of Tod Leighfield. Her lab is now attempting to tritiate STX for use as a reagent for the receptor assays conducted under the IAEA

## Best Wishes to

### Lisa Hollen and Jeral Tyler!!

Lisa Hollen will be entering the Masters of Environmental Science (MES) program at the University of Charleston this fall. Her last day in the lab will be August 9, 2002.

Jeral Tyler will be entering the University of Maryland School of Dentistry. His last day in the lab is August 2, 2002.

## Scientist Spotlight: Jeanine Miller

Jeanine is currently involved in the identification and response characterization of stress proteins in *Karenia brevis*. This project is her thesis work for her masters in marine biology program at the University of Charleston. She will be finishing her masters degree in the spring of 2003.

Jeanine completed her undergraduate thesis at UNC-Wilmington. She will remain in research in Charleston, SC until enrolling in a PhD in several years. Lab work is more enjoyable for Jeanine than field work.

## Welcome to the Team!!

Wes Jackson is working with Fran VanDolah



## MBP Volunteer from the NOAA vessel Ferrel

Lynne McKee is an officer aboard the NOAA vessel Ferrell. The Ferrel works in coastal waters ranging from New England to the central Gulf of Mexico. Currently she is on medical leave from the Ferrel. The Marine Biotoxins Program excitedly welcomed her as a volunteer. While here, she is doing some research on separation of Domoic Acid from glutamate. Unfortunately it is not known how long Lynne will be with us, but we hope to keep in close contact with both her and the Ferrel.

Please direct all comments and suggestions to  
[Marine.Biotoxins@noaa.gov](mailto:Marine.Biotoxins@noaa.gov)

## NCCOS Provides Technical Expertise to Chile

*adopted from NOS update July 17, 2002*

Chile suffered an unprecedented outbreak of paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) during 2002, which resulted in several fatalities and closure of extensive shellfisheries. In the wake of this year's PSP crisis, a National Red Tide Committee was organized, and an International Advisory Panel of foreign experts was established to assist in the development of a National Plan to provide funding for interdisciplinary harmful algal bloom research. Fran VanDolah will be the representative from NCCOS to serve on the advisory panel, along with representatives from FDA and academia. A follow-up national meeting meeting in January 2003 on Harmonization of Monitoring Techniques will include a training workshop on receptor assays developed at NCCOS. Chile currently has an \$80 million export shell fishing industry and a \$30 million industry supporting domestic shellfish consumption. Establishing efficient methods for monitoring algal toxins in coastal waters and seafood is essential to protect public health and to ensure the export of shellfish to the U.S. and E.U.



## SCPMN Gearing Up for the New School Year

The SCPMN Annual Refresher Course is being held at Hollings Marine Laboratory in mid August. Topics to be covered include a sample refresher, a progress report on data collected last year, and an evaluation questionnaire. The refresher course dates are as follows:

*Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup> 4pm-6pm*  
*Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup> 4pm-6pm*  
*Monday, August 12<sup>th</sup> 4pm-6pm*  
*Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup> 4pm-6pm*

Several new groups have recently enrolled in the SCPMN. The addition of these groups expands the SCPMN north to Georgetown county.

## ECOHAB: Florida Workshop

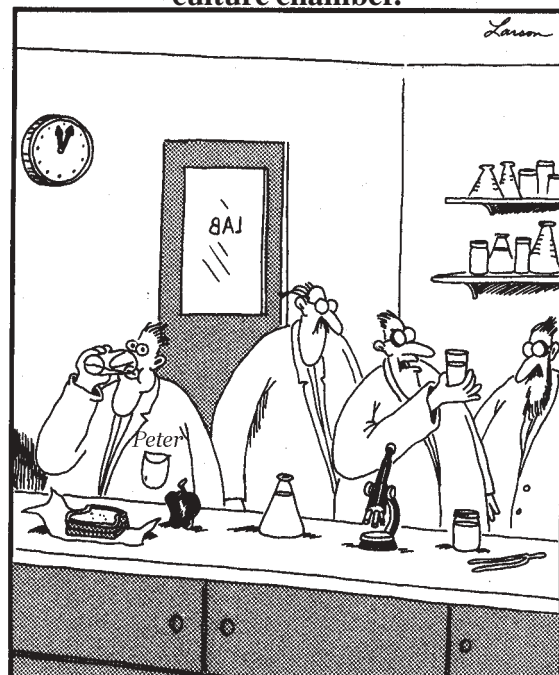


*ECOHAB workshop participants*

Fran VanDolah, Tod Leighfield, and Jeanine Miller traveled to Sanibel Island, Florida August 9-12, 2002 to attend the ECOHAB workshop. The purpose of this workshop was to discuss what types of publications will result from five years of ECOHAB research along the west Florida shelf. There will be special issue of a journal that will cover all aspects of the project.

**ECOHAB: Florida** is an in-depth study of *Karenia brevis*, Florida's predominant red tide organism, to better understand its occurrence and dispersal and to predict and manage harmful algal bloom events on the west coast of Florida.

## Why chemists are no longer allowed in the culture chamber.



"What the? ... This is lemonade!  
 Where's my culture of *Pfiesteria*?"